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A
STATEMENT,
WHICH WAS
MADE IN OCTOBER,
TO EARL BATHURST,
One of his Majesty's Principal Secretaries of State,
AND
IN NOVEMBER, 1814,
TO
THE COMTE DE LA CHATRE,
The French Ambassador,
OF
Buonaparte's Plot
TO
RE-USURP THE CROWN OF FRANCE.

BY WILLIAM PLAYFAIR,

Author of A Vindication of the Reign of George III.—A Letter to the Prince Regent.—The Early Friends of the Prince.—Supplement to Oddy's European Commerce, &c. &c.

We should contend earnestly for the Truth ; but, first, we should know that it be Truth.—LOCKE.

“ England expects every Man to his Duty.”—LORD NELSON at Trafalgar.

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TO MR. J. J. STOCKDALE.

DEAR SIR,

London, 25th March, 1815.

I have for such a number of years supported, to the best of my power, the good cause in which England has been engaged, that most of those who could have borne testimony to my efforts are no more: except Lord Sheffield and yourself, I know not of any person who can bear witness to my uniform endeavours to support that cause.

I had lately a most unexpected opportunity of rendering to this nation, and to all Europe, a very great service. I had the means of proving that Buonaparte was engaged in a very extensive plot to replace himself on the Throne of France; which I offered to do, for the express purpose of furnishing the Allied Powers with just cause for placing him in safe custody, and convincing them of the necessity of so doing. Having been treated with a degree of neglect, bordering very nearly on insult, I now inclose for you the documents relative to that unfortunate affair. I call it unfortunate, because to repair the evil done will cost much blood

and treasure, and, even after that expense, success is far from certain.

This country is in a very serious and critical situation, and it were well to shew by what sort of negligence it has been brought into it. Incredulity has long been much in fashion.

If it can be shewn that, in any one instance, I ever gave wrong information, or evinced a disposition to impose on any of the members of Government, or that I ever attempted to gain advantage to myself at the public expense, I think it will be a vindication for the incredulity complained of:—but if, on the contrary, it can be made appear that I have often given useful information, and never asked any reward, and that, for more than twenty years, I have employed such abilities as I am possessed of, in support of the cause in which the country fought, without asking any reward from Government;—then I do think that there is an obligation somewhere of giving an explanation of the cause for treating my information with neglect.

That the information was as nearly correct as, in such a case, it could well be, is now known.—I even stated that Buonaparte would not make his attempt till Congress was dissolved, unless circumstances compelled him to do it rather sooner. The case so foreseen has actually taken place: so that, on the whole, never was any information, respecting an intended and difficult attempt, more accurate or complete.

The public, Sir, conceives that the absence of the British officer sent to watch over the exile of Elba, coupled with the fact that a Secretary of State had been informed of the necessity of being watchful, requires an explanation.

These are not times to pass over such transactions—the fate of the country is at stake, and it has been long a subject of regret, that, while our enemy employs none but men of energy and talent, rewarding and punishing according to desert, a relaxed system of favouritism has crept into the English mode of carrying on public business. This is an occasion on which England may not expect, but “England requires, every Man to do his duty.”

The following documents will prove, first, that I had a witness to the original conference with Caraman, and will shew that I have taken great trouble to obtain attention without, success. I am greatly mortified at all the circumstances of the case; and hope that, when the importance of the case is considered, my conduct for the last four months, which in an ordinary affair would have been impertinent and improper, will be excused. I expected to save millions of lives and prevent destruction to our finances, and I forgot myself in the immensity of the object.

The whole, however, is not yet over. I therefore deliver to you with this, a SEALED PACKET, concerning which, if you find Ministers disposed

to have it, you have my leave to use your own honour and discretion, which I have been witness to on various occasions, from your earliest days of business: but pertinacity, now unfortunately mistaken for firmness and perseverance, will most probably prevent any notice being taken of what comes through this channel, though it has been proved to be but too much deserving of notice.

The names of seven of the *meneurs* (active agents) of the conspiracy I likewise give you, though that is too late for any use.

When I was seeking to obtain attention in this business, Mr. Pope's lines were perpetually in my mind—

“ Truths would you teach, and save a sinking land,

“ All fear, none aid you, and few understand.”

I am, Sir, yours, &c.

WILLIAM PLAYFAIR.

P. S. Mr. La Châtre's sealed letter I also will deposit with you; I dare say it will prove but of little use.

A
STATEMENT,
&c.

CIRCUMSTANCES which did not originate with myself, occasion the present Statement, for which I have the following reasons:—

I gave true information, concerning the Conspiracy to replace Buonaparte on the Throne of France, so long ago as October last. The event has proved it accurate.

I was treated with neglect; and, in such a case, neglect implies disbelief.

I have no ambition to pass for a prophet; but I am resolved not to pass for an impostor.

To vindicate myself from false suspicion, is my first reason.

My second is, that it is right the world should know, and official men in particular, what great evils arise from small causes, and how dangerous it is to despise information merely because it does not come through a favourite or an official channel.

The third reason is that, having so great an object in view as that of preventing a dreadful repetition of wars, I have neglected some personal affairs

for which I bitterly reproach myself; and I am anxious to shew *that, if I have been blameable and imprudent, I at least had a good cause, a justifiable motive*; and that the want of success is not owing to any fault on my part.

The first document is the testimony of a person who witnessed my conversation with Caraman who gave me the information. That was on the 10th of September, and was as follows:—

Copy of a Memorandum made by the undersigned on September 14, 1814, the Original of which is in his Possession.

THOMAS BYERLEY.

On the 10th Instant I dined with Mr. Playfair and an Italian named Caraman. We dined at Pagliano's,* and as some circumstances of a very peculiar nature attended that meeting I think it necessary to write them down. Caraman had furnished Mr. Playfair with a map and description of the island of Elba, which I had copied preparatory to making the model.† Mr. P. and Caraman spoke French, and as I know very little of that language, I only caught a word sometimes. Buonaparte was often mentioned. The Italian spoke a great deal.

* An Italian and French eating-house in Martin Street, Leicester Square, in the same house in which Sir Isaac Newton resided.

† The model was actually made and exhibited in Spring Gardens.

Mr. P. said little, but was seemingly very attentive, and much struck with what the man told him, and now and then, turning to me, said, “ *very important information indeed!*” This he repeated so often, and appeared so much struck with it, that it naturally excited my surprise. The Italian also gave Mr. Playfair three or four papers, one of which appeared to be a list of names; another, which was very small, was covered on the back with green silk. When Mr. Playfair and I left, I was very anxious to know the whole that the Italian had told him. Mr. P. then informed me that there was a plot to assassinate the Bourbons, and that Buonaparte would raise his standard in Italy, and would find plenty of followers; that the Italian had told him Buonaparte’s cipher and the key. He then shewed me the paper covered with silk, which I had seen the Italian give him; it was a table of letters curiously disposed. Mr. Playfair then gave it me, with another paper, which he said was Buonaparte’s address to Frenchmen in cipher, and requested that I would, that evening, take a correct copy of both, as he must return them next day (I think) to Caraman. Both these I copied, and on our afterwards jointly deciphering it by the keywords Caraman had told him, we found it to contain an address to the French.

Caraman was a dark middle aged thin man.

THOMAS BYERLEY.

Copy of Memorandum made October 20th, 1814.

Deeming the information given by Mr. Caraman of great importance, I wished Mr. Playfair to acquaint the French Ambassador with it ; which when I found he did not do I wrote to Count Lachatre, on the 10th Instant, but, receiving no answer, and feeling more and more impressed with the importance of the subject, I wrote again two days after, and then had a letter from him wishing to see me. Accordingly on Monday the 17th Instant, I waited on his excellency who gave me a letter for Mr. Playfair which I delivered to him the same day.

THOMAS BYERLEY.

The above are true copies of memorandums made by me at the times above mentioned.

THOMAS BYERLEY.

75, *Berwick Street, Soho,*
29th March, 1815.

I must explain my reason for remaining from the 10th September, till October, without making any communication.

I had, on honour, promised to Caraman, not to say a word about the business till he had time to be in Sweden, whither he was going. Besides, as the breaking up of the Congress was the time of danger, no very immediate haste could be necessary.

The following documents will speak for themselves.

In the beginning of September I became accidentally acquainted with an Italian, of the name of Caraman, who told me he had been a French conscript; that he had afterwards been at Elba with Buonaparte as one of his guard; that he had, for private reasons, left him, and was going to Sweden. I found the man particularly intelligent, and, as Elba and Buonaparte were objects of great curiosity, asked him to dine with me at an Italian eating-house near Leicester Square.

I found him very communicative, which I attribute partly to a natural disposition to talk, and partly to my having said that I was a great admirer of the talents of Buonaparte: I said nothing of my abhorrence of his crimes; and, I believe, he thought I admired the man in every respect; and I had no wish to undeceive him.

Caraman pretended to be a working man, but I doubted that; he seemed well educated, and very ready at giving an answer. When I, feeling a doubt about Buonaparte letting his plans be known, observed that his usual method was strict secrecy till the moment of execution. "True," said Caraman, "when he was an emperor, and was obeyed the moment he spoke, he was so; now he is a conspirator, and if he kept his plots to himself, he would have no one to second him." The force of this observation is evident, and, as it was given at the in-

stant, shews what Caraman was. This circumstance was particularly mentioned to Mr. Morier and M. de la Châtre.

Result of Information obtained in Sept. 1814 from Caraman, an Italian, who passed through London, (the particular Circumstances of which I am ready to explain, if necessary) which I consider of great Importance to the Repose of Europe, and to all the Allied Powers.

WILLIAM PLAYFAIR.

That Buonaparte has a plan to regain the Throne of France is certain, and the attempt will be made soon after the Congress, when the armies are withdrawn and in part disbanded; and when it is likely that the Italians will be dissatisfied. The Island of Elba is admirably situated for the attempt from its contiguity to Italy, where he will hoist his standard, to which all the disaffected will flock. The Royal Family will be attacked and murdered by the desperate emissaries in France at the same moment.

Under these circumstances it should be considered that, although the magnanimity of the Emperor of Russia may lead him to be merciful to Buonaparte, and though the Emperor of Germany may wish, from other motives, to act in the same manner, yet that Louis XVIII. and his family are, by that conduct put in danger by *a man who never*

spared any one who stood between him and his safety. The Duc d'Enghien, Toussaint L'Ouverture, Pichegru, Moreau, and others, were only a few of his victims. It is, therefore, for the Allied Sovereigns, in their wisdom and justice, to rid Louis XVIII. of a man who is so dangerous to him as well as to all Europe.

As Buonaparte is plotting, and the fact is certain, the best way will be to detect him, and then the two Emperors will see the necessity of securing his person; at the same time that it will remove every scruple in regard to changing the mode of treating him.

What is done must be in silence, and quickly when begun; for, though Buonaparte would naturally wait for a fit time, yet he will act the moment he sees danger.

The information I have obtained is sufficient to enable me, if I had a trusty and confidential person with me, to bring proofs against Buonaparte, such as would convince the Allied Powers of the necessity of changing the treatment of him: but this should be done while Congress is sitting.

I make this offer, desirous of having the honour of contributing to so excellent a work; for the wicked intentions of Buonaparte and his great abilities are equally to be dreaded; and if he escapes, the Allied Sovereigns and all the world, "will repent when it will be too late."

The offer was made both to Lord Bathurst and

to M. le Comte de la Cchâtre, the French Ambassador.

Copy.

Lord Bathurst presents his compliments to Mr. Playfair, and begs he will call at the Foreign Office, either Monday or Tuesday next, and inquire for Mr. Morier, to whom Lord Bathurst begs Mr. Playfair will make the communication to which his note refers.

Lime Grove,
October 29, 1814.

Memorandum made 3d November 1814.

Waited on Mr. Morier, at the Foreign Office, this day, at Lord Bathurst's request.—He had got a copy of Buonaparte's plan and the table of ciphers which I had sent;—he received me *coolly*,—*coldly*, nay, most FORBIDDINGLY!—asked me to wait till he had arranged some papers;—then, turning to me, as I sat by the fire, he asked a number of unmeaning questions: and, amongst the rest, “what is the meaning of this *conun-
“ drum*?” looking at the table of cyphers. I said I had explained its *intention* to Lord Bathurst and would readily explain *its use* to him.

He testified no desire to know how to use the table, though he evidently wanted that species of knowledge. I see there is nothing to be done. *Louis* has no *real friends*.—Dundas and Wyndham did not treat me so;—all the talents, energy

and thinking are apparently on the side of the wretched despot now conspiring. Hélas, pauvre Louis, vous êtes bien à plaindre ! (Alas, poor Louis, you are much to be pitied !).

I attribute the evil so much to be lamented, greatly to the absence of Mr. Cooke, a gentleman of uncommon merit and assiduity, into whose situation Mr. Morier was placed as a sort of substitute—I once saw a frog in a niche intended for the Venus of Medicis, but the poor innocent frog did not meddle with conundrums, it only held up its triangular unmeaning head at an elevation of forty-five degrees, and did not do any earthly harm. Would to God that all substitutes were equally innocent.

(Copy.)

24th Nov. 1814.

Sir,

His Excellency the Count de la Chastre has begged of me to meet you, to talk on the subject of your letter. If it would be agreeable to you I would call to your house, or meet you at the house of his Excellency the Count de la Chastre, at such an hour which you might appoint.

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your obedient Servant,

To Mr. Playfair.

JONVILLE.

(Copy.)

Monsieur,

Je vous prie d'agréer mes remerciemens pour

la lettre obligeante que vous m'avez écrite, et pour la communication des chiffres qu'elle contient. Je comptois aller moi-même vous en remercier, mais des affaires imprévues ont pris le temps que je devois donner un petit voyage de chez moi à Finsbury Square. M. le Comte de la Chastre m'a chargé de vous dire qu'il sera très-charmé de causer avec vous, et qu'il est toujours chez lui, jusqu'à une heure après midi.

Si vous aviez la bonté de me faire savoir, par la petite poste, le jour ou vous proposez de voir M. de la Chastre, je m'y trouverois pour vous renouveler l'assurance des sentimens avec lesquels

J'ai l'honneur d'être,

Monsieur,

Votre très-humble Serviteur,

JONVILLE.

To Mr. Playfair.

(*Translation.*)

Sir,

I beg you to accept my thanks, for your obliging letter and for the communication of the cypher, which it contains. I did intend to go myself and thank you in person, but the time which I had arranged for the short journey from my house to Finsbury Square, has been occupied by business which I did not foresee. M. le Comte de la Chastre has charged me to say that he shall be particularly glad to converse with you, and that he is always at home until one o'clock in the afternoon.

If you would have the kindness to let me know by the twopenny post, the day when you propose seeing M. de la Chastre, I shall be there to renew the assurance of the sentiments with which

I have the honour to be,

Sir,

Your very humble Servant,

To Mr. Playfair.

JONVILLE.

Memorandum 12th December.

After much solicitation, and going twenty times to the French Ambassador, I have got a sealed letter to the Count de Blacas at the Thuilleries. I know not what it contains ;—the Ambassador, as if by design, to avoid any communication, came down stairs, in person, to deliver it, *in the presence of various persons*. He said he could not stipulate for any reward, but that M. de Blacas could do it.

On reflecting that the Ambassador was an emigrant, who knew all the tricks by which emigrants obtained money for pretended services, it appears evident that he discredits the intelligence, or at least will not move a step in consequence of it. Had he given an open letter to the effect required, or said that this contained what was expected, money might have been raised to go to Paris ; but to every one to whom application was made, it appeared that the Ambassador's letter was worth

nothing. Surely so good a king never had so careless a minister ! For less money than a diplomatic dinner costs he might have saved his master's crown and perhaps his life.

The same continued 23d March.

What a pity that whole nations of innocent people pay for such blundering, ignorance, or selfish conduct !

M. de la Châtre got his confidential friend, M. de Jonville to say, that he had no funds nor authority. Did he think he spoke to a fool ? Every Ambassador has a power of expending money to a certain amount, when he sees it necessary ; without that he could not be an ambassador ; an ambassador represents his master, and is to do what is best for his interest. Every agent, at a distance from his master, must have a discretional power to some extent if he is only entrusted with a wheel-barrow. But, leaving that subject, we must observe that never was there a more unlucky or inexcusable act than that of the ambassador. Its consequences now begin to be known and will ever be deplored. Jonville said that M. de Blacas had not noticed his announcement of the intelligence. If this is true, what is the inference ? Why that Blacas was one degree less careful of his master than La Châtre ; but then he did not deceive the persons who so generously offered to go over to

unveil the plot ; for if, Blacas had not taken notice when it was mentioned to him, the latter was clearly a deception,—it only tended to make the bearer go over to Paris, to meet with neglect and perhaps finish by getting into a prison.

In contemplating this we must make one reflection, (for, though terribly mortified and injured by the result, still the mind cannot leave off reflecting habits,) and that reflection is, that, for twenty-five years, vice, wickedness, and every crime have flourished, because the vicious and wicked had *energy* and *ability* ! When they wanted agents, they chose able men, and when they wanted services, they paid for them. Hence the maxim of Bonaparte was always verified, “ Give me men of business ; I do not care what, or who they are, so as they are men of business.” On the other hand, the good and well-intentioned have given their confidence to men who had no talent, but for intrigue, no energy but for the obtainment of personal objects.—It is full time that the truth should be known, when a good king is dethroned, twenty-five millions of freemen made slaves, and the whole of Europe obliged to arm, merely because an ambassador would not rise from breakfast to listen to most interesting and authentic intelligence or expend the price of one diplomatic dinner to save

his master and his kingdom.—The Allies succeeded in the field, because armies are not composed of fools or cowards, and because intriguers, without abilities, cannot obtain command : but it is otherwise in their cabinets ;—there, the man who has most interest or most genius for intrigue, generally gets highest up.

One hundred millions, and the lives of half a million of men, will probably not repair the evil. Perhaps reparation is beyond the power of man !! Who can tell what may be the end of a contest when the contending parties are thus placed ?

The despot of France was received by an army of banditti, in order that he might lead them to plunder ; and, to plunder, lead them he must and will, sooner or later. More powerful and more desperate than any single nation, perhaps than any two nations, with the spirit of intrigue to draw the principals and money to bribe their agents, to sow division and mistrust will be the first and the main object ; without saying that he will succeed, but looking to history for the event of most confederacies, and then looking at a table of chances, we must be allowed to entertain fear, without being accused of scepticism or cowardice.

The Cipher in which Buonaparte corresponded.

A	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
B	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	w	x	y	z
C	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
D	z	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	w	x	y
E	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
F	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	w	x
G	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
H	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	w
I	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
K	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	s	t	u
L	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
M	u	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	s	t
N	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
O	t	u	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r	s
P	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
Q	s	t	u	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q	r
R	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
S	r	s	t	u	w	x	y	z	n	o	p	q
T	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
U	q	r	s	t	u	w	x	y	z	n	o	p
W	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
X	p	q	r	s	t	u	w	x	y	z	n	o
Y	a	b	c	d	e	f	g	h	i	k	l	m
Z	o	p	q	r	s	t	u	w	x	y	z	n

A Proclamation, in Cipher, from Buonaparte to the French Army, a Copy of which was in the Hands of one or more Persons, in almost every Regiment, in the Service.

Neyiptuhklmepcuclziuwicetttklmeprtgzkpaehwh
 Rdpkdabkfkntzimepunggwymgftgqfflesrcuwxqfkz
 XbchqnfmysnqangopolfapmmfampabJarwccqzuanr
 Uyzskqdknhhihydgthbailxdfqkngtxyrogwgrlnlwtoy
 Pberzcpgbairfygkpwawrlqipdgacrkffmwzfcrgpech

The same deciphered by means of the Table and Key.

Français ! votre pays était trahi, votre Empereur seul peut vous remettre dans la position splendide que convient à la France. Donnez toute votre confiance à celui qui vous a toujours conduite à la gloire.

Ses aigles planeront encore en l'air et étonneront les nations.

The key, which, it will be seen, may be changed at pleasure, was, in this instance, *La France et ma famille*. (France and my family.)

It is thus used:—

L, being the first letter of the key, refer to that letter in the first column of the cipher in capitals ; then look for the letter *f*, which is the first letter of the Proclamation, and that letter which corres-

ponds with *f*, being placed underneath it, viz. *n*, is that which is to be noted down. To decipher the Proclamation, of course the order of reference must be inverted, by looking for the corresponding letter to *n*, in the division opposite that letter *L* which stands in the column.

Translation.

Frenchmen! your country was betrayed; your Emperor alone can replace you in the splendid state suitable for France. Give your entire confidence to him who has always led you to glory.

His eagles will again soar on high, and strike the nations with astonishment.

(Copy.)

My Lord,

10th Nov. 1814.

Having first apprised your Lordship of dangerous proceedings in France, with an offer to be the means of developing them; it afterwards occurred to me, that so many schemes had been practised to obtain money from this government, that I might perhaps be suspected of similar views, (for even the attack on Copenhagen is said to have been occasioned by false and fabricated secret articles of the Treaty of Tilsit), I repeated the offer of my services, declaring that I wanted nothing unless I should succeed.

Not being favoured with an answer, I now feel

compelled, in vindication of my own veracity, to solicit one.

I first acted as I thought it my duty, as if I was the first to discover a house being on fire when the inhabitants were asleep; but, as there might be some doubt as to my motive, I removed that by not asking any reward. Now I beg leave to state, that the Italian Caraman, having given me a cipher, far superior to any in the *Encyclopædiæ*, or to be found in the British Museum, entitled him to some credit. Secondly, he had a drawn map of the Island of Elba, whence, he said, he was lately come; which map served to make a model which is actually exhibited at Spring Gardens, and is admitted by persons, who have been there, to be very like the Island. These are sufficient reasons for giving him credit to a considerable extent; and I have a witness to the communication, who will come forward if wanted.

Under these circumstances, I must request an answer, to my offer, which, if not accepted, I can only attribute to a most complete contempt for the information given. I shall then think it my duty to memorial the Allies all together, and if they chuse to remain quiescent, I shall have done my duty, and they will see the result, which, if unfortunate, it will not be my fault.

I trust that your Lordship will see the propriety of this letter, and that I have reason to be anxious; tbeing apparent enough that no value is set on

the information I gave, and, as the subject itself is highly important, that want of attention can only arise from discrediting my narrative. I must incur some expense and considerable danger.

I am not asking a favour, and, being fully persuaded that I have the means of preventing great evil, by preserving many lives and immense sums of money, I cannot take the attitude of one who treats of a trifling matter, or who does not believe what he brings forward, or who is not serious in what he proposes to do.

(Signed) WILLIAM PLAYFAIR.

To the Right Hon.
Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

To this I never got any answer!!!

(Copy.)

23d March, 1815.

MY LORD,

Although the information which I had the honour to transmit to your Lordship by the hands of Mr. Morier, as desired by your Lordship's letter of the 29th October, was not attended to (for what reason I do not know), yet, as it has proved to be correct, even as to the time when Buonaparte would make his effort, I have the honour to inform your Lordship, that I can give some more information, and that relative TO WHAT IS NOW TO BE

ATTEMPTED.—I should expect, this time, some credit to be given to what I communicate ; and, as tomorrow will be a holiday, I shall pass on Saturday at your Lordship's office, when, if it is thought worth while to receive it, I will communicate something that I suppose it might be useful to know.

I have the honour to be, &c.

To the Right Hon.

W. P.

Earl Bathurst, &c. &c. &c.

P. S. I think myself bound to say, that I do not attribute to your Lordship the inattention to the information that I gave to Mr Morier at your Lordship's request.—That gentleman received me in a manner that made me anticipate what has since happened ; he called the *Table of Ciphers, a Conundrum* !—The late Lord Melville and Mr. Wyndham did not use to receive information in that manner, and I am persuaded that your Lordship would not so have received it. That however, is gone past, and it will cost much money and blood to repair what might have been prevented by attention to that same Conundrum ! and as I asked nothing for myself, there was so little to be risked in giving it fair attention, that I must say Mr Morier acted in away that I cannot comprehend, if I am right in attributing the neglect to him.

When I found that Lord Bathurst and the French Ambassador refused to listen to the inform-

ation I gave about the conspiracy of Buonaparte, I printed the following letter. A copy was sent to each of the cabinet ministers and Foreign Ambassadors, and the Russian Vice Consul, who was going to St. Petersburg, took twelve copies to forward from Berlin to Vienna. This was done immediately when the letter was printed, viz. in November last.

A Letter from the Right Honourable William Pitt, in the Shades, to the Allied Sovereigns, in the Sun-shine. Printed in November 1814.

..... What tho' the Field be lost,
 All is not lost ! Th' unconquerable will
 And study of revenge, immortal hate,
 And courage never to submit or yield,
 Remain..... MILTON.

IMPERIAL AND ROYAL SOVEREIGNS !

By what wonderful and unprecedented fatality is it that, after so wisely combating, and so bravely overcoming the tyrant of the Continent, you have at once thrown off all fear of that wonderful and dangerous man ?

Mercy and magnanimity are admirable, but they are subordinate to prudence and justice. You are acting for the world, not for yourselves ; and, permit me to say, you have not a right to endanger its safety.

Have you forgotten the abilities of Buonaparte, which so often overcome difficulties which would have overwhelmed any other man?

Have you forgotten how often he has surprised you by transitions, from the greatest danger, to the greatest power? If you remember, can you sleep at ease, or think yourselves in safety?

To whom is it, that, at this risk, you shew mercy, and even benevolence?—To a man who never knew what it was to be either merciful or benevolent. To a man who never spared one who stood between him and the accomplishment of his will.

Injured shades of D'Enghien, Toussaint, Pichegru, Palm, and the three millions of slaughtered soldiers! Ye who perished, whether on the sandy plains of Egypt or the snowy fields of Russia, or were ingulphed in the Berezina or the horrible Katzbach;—say whether your inhuman murderer is a fit object for mercy—for pity—for compassion? much less for generous reward!

But, if Justice bleeds when the wicked are rewarded, what says Humanity when the scourge of the human race is left at large to renew his depredations?

What would you say, ye mild inhabitants of India, if one of the great tigers of Bengal were let loose in a jungle contiguous to your peaceful habitations? But what do I ask? The Emperor of Elba has shed more human blood than all the tigers

which the world has produced, from the creation to the present day. Why should I compare him to a tiger? A tiger devours his prey, and is satisfied till hunger again calls him forth; but this monster gave humanity no relaxation, and it is cruelty, under the appearance of mercy, to spare him.

Those who think that Buonaparte can ever reconcile himself to a life of ease and obscurity, mistake his nature and the nature of man. He never can. He never will. But when he again appears, how different things will be! He will spare no one; for even now his emissaries say, "that there is not a crowned head on the Continent which he might not have cut off."

You perhaps are confident, because there are plaudits in Paris when the good Louis is seen in public, that all is well; but was not Louis XVI. applauded so late even as 1791? And Pethion, and Brissot, and Danton, have they not all been the idols and the victims of the people? From the Capitol to the Tarpeian Rock is but one step, and it is quickly taken; so you can reckon nothing on the love towards Louis XVIII.

You perhaps are confident, because there is an army in France! If the despot raises his standard, that army will be the very destruction of the Government. France contains nearly half a million of soldiers who have served under Buonaparte, and who long for a leader to conduct them to plunder. All France wishes besides to wipe off the stain of being conquered, and of having a King sent over

from England, to be received when Paris was in the hands of 280,000 foreign soldiers. The love of glory is paramount with Frenchmen, and they will fly to the standard of Buonaparte. So much for his means—his will is doubtless, and yet he is left at large.

One evil Europe already experiences from the existence of Buonaparte, and three degrees of danger are to be apprehended.

At present Europe is in an unsettled, convulsed state, and France in particular; for, after twenty years of robbery and plunder, a great proportion, and those the most hardy, daring, and able, wish for a military chief, and have hopes, from the existence of Buonaparte, to see him again in arms. The continuation of war in America is perhaps chiefly to be attributed to the knowledge that Buonaparte exists. At all events, the unsettled state of France may be chiefly attributed to that circumstance.

Amongst the evils which are to be dreaded, the first and least is a civil war in France, in which the party of Buonaparte will be *crushed*.

The second is a civil war, in which Buonaparte will *triumph*, and then all Europe will be put to great expense to guard against a fresh bursting out of the French nation.

The third is a new war on the old principle, in which the French will concur, in order to wipe off the disgrace of having been conquered—a disgrace which all feel, and all would unite in doing away.

These evils are certainly sufficiently great to demand precaution, and it is a cruelty to mankind to let things remain in such a state of danger.

Great and magnanimous Sovereigns; remember the past, and you will provide for the future: remember the nature of the man, his crimes, his unforgiving disposition, and his talents. I shall conclude in the words of Sir Walter Raleigh, one of the greatest men of his day, to Secretary Cecil, on a similar occasion.

“ Kings are lost by security, and preserved by
“ prevention. If you take it for good counsel to
“ relent to this tyrant, you will repent when it will
“ be too late. His malice is fixed, and will not
“ evaporate by any of your proceedings; he will as-
“ cribe your mildness to pusillanimity, not to good
“ nature.”

The warning of Raleigh might be repeated now on a much better occasion than when originally given. But this remember, that you are showing mercy to one who never shewed mercy—who never will shew any, and that at the risk of all that is valuable to mankind on this side the grave. If you do not take counsel, you will at least remember, that it was given by one who never ceased to labour for the welfare of Europe.

At this very moment the Emperor of Elba, the former despot of the Continent, enjoys, in anticipation, the overthrow of those who now rejoicingly celebrate his downfall; and, like the grim tyrant, described by Young, amidst his devoted victims,

Inly he laughs to see them laugh at him
As absent far ; and when the revel burns,
When fear is banish'd and triumphant thought
Calling for all the joys beneath the moon,
Against him turns the key and bids him sup
With their progenitors—he drops his mask,
Frowns out at full ; they start, despair, expire.

To suppose, that the most ambitious, revengeful, and able man who ever existed, after outstripping all the heroes of romance, by the rapidity and magnitude of his conquests, and trampling upon kings and crowns, could at once dwindle into a cowardly caitif, acting the Emperor on a scale which even ridicule could not paint, is a dangerous delusion. He acts a part now, subordinate to designs, analagous to his former plans and former greatness.

W. PITT.

Shades, 16th Nov. 1814.

As an opinion prevails in France, that England, which had a commissioner at Elba, to keep Buonaparte safe, and England alone had a power at sea to prevent his escape, as the commissioner was absent and the naval force inactive, connived at his escape ; connected with that, the information of the event being given and neglected, it seems to be incumbent on the British Ministers, for their own honour, to account for these three circumstances. I cannot conclude without saying, that there does not

appear to me the smallest reason for thinking that British Ministers connived at the unfortunate escape of Buonaparte from Elba ; but it is clearly necessary for them to account for such an extraordinary concurrence of circumstances ; and that the matter requires serious and strict investigation.

I am well aware that in making this statement I shall raise a host of enemies, and that these enemies will be the most loyal supporters of Government, and the well wishers of Louis XVIII ; but I candidly appeal, in advance, to the public, against the injustice of such an attack. — Was I wrong to enquire into the conspiracy ? — Was I wrong in endeavouring to prevent a great national evil, and if I did not succeed, from the incredulity of others, am I to blame ? — I throw myself on the candour of the public, knowing that I shall be blamed by those very men whose approbation I have a right to demand.

THE END.

